EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

(1)

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy Boller on March 12, 2008.

(2)

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to read:

1. A method for manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component comprising:

a step of forming a ceramic green sheet on the surface of a first carrier film;

a step of forming a release layer on the surface of a second carrier film including a surface-treated region on which a surface treatment is performed for improving releasability and a non-surface-treated regions on which no surface treatment is performed on both sides of the surface-treated region and having a width substantially equal to that of the first carrier film;

a step of forming an electrode layer in a predetermined pattern and a spacer layer in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer on the surface of the release layer, thereby forming an inner electrode layer;

a step of forming an adhesive layer on the surface of a third carrier film having a width substantially equal to that of the second carrier film;

a step of bringing the surface of the adhesive layer formed on the third carrier film and the surface of the inner electrode layer into close contact with each other and pressing them, thereby bonding the adhesive layer onto the surface of the inner electrode layer;

a step of peeling off the third carrier film from the adhesive layer;

a step of pressing and bonding the ceramic green sheet formed on the surface of the first carrier film and the inner electrode layer formed on the surface of the second carrier film onto each other via the adhesive layer; and

a step of peeling off the first carrier film from the ceramic green sheet, thereby fabricating a multi-layered unit including the ceramic green sheet and the inner electrode layer laminated onto each other,

wherein the adhesive layer is formed by coating the surface of the third carrier film with an adhesive agent solution so that the width of the adhesive layer is:

narrower than the width of the third carrier film by at least 2α, wherein the third carrier film is conveyed by a sheet conveying mechanism and α is a positive value defined as the maximum width within which one side of a sheet may meander when the sheet is conveyed by the sheet conveying mechanism and is a value inherent to the sheet conveying mechanism;

wider than the width of the ceramic green sheet formed on the surface of the first carrier film and the widths of the release layer and the inner electrode layer formed on the

surface of the second carrier film by at least 2α; and

wider than the width of the surface-treated region of the second carrier film by at least 2α.

(3)

The drawings filed October 17, 2005 are approved.

(4)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record discloses transferring adhesive to greensheets for making a greensheet laminate (Roosen et al. 7,318,874), transferring electrodes to greensheets for making a greensheet laminate (Kuramitsu 6,602,370) or printing electrodes and spacer layer separately onto greensheets for making a greensheet laminate (Tokuoka 6,550,117). The prior art of record does not disclose the method of manufacturing a multi-layered unit for a multi-layered ceramic electronic component as claimed including a step of forming an electrode layer in a predetermined pattern and a spacer layer in a complementary pattern to that of the electrode layer on the surface of a release layer on a carrier film having surface-treated and non-surface-treated regions, thereby forming an inner electrode layer, and forming an adhesive layer on a third carrier film so that the width of the adhesive layer is narrower than the width of the third carrier film by at least 2α, wherein the third carrier film is conveyed by a sheet conveying mechanism and α is a positive value defined as the maximum width within which one side of a sheet may meander when the sheet is conveyed by the sheet conveying mechanism and is a value inherent to the sheet conveying mechanism; wider than the width of the ceramic green sheet formed on

the surface of the first carrier film and the widths of the release layer and the inner electrode layer formed on the surface of the second carrier film by at least 2α; and wider than the width of the surface-treated region of the second carrier film by at least 2α, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin C. Mayes whose telephone number is 571-272-1234. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Phillip C. Tucker can be reached on 571-272-1095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Melvin C. Mayes
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

MCM
March 12, 2008

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